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A Digest of English and American Literature. By ALFRED H. WELSH. Chicago, S. C. Griggs & Co. 12°. \$1.50.

THE object of this work is to give an epitome of English literature from the earliest Anglo-Saxon period to the present day. The matter is arranged in four columns: the first containing a brief mention of the most important historic events; the second, a review of the characteristics of each age, so far as they affected literature; while the remaining two are devoted to the various authors and their principal works. The space given to each author is necessarily small, rarely extending to a page; but the style is concise and sententious, and usually clear, so that a good deal of information is conveyed in a compact and intelligible form. The work is divided into periods; and on the whole the division is well made, though it seems to us that some of the writers credited to the Puritan period belong, both by style and by subject, to the earlier, or renaissance period. As regards the authors who ought to be noticed in such a work as this, opinions will differ somewhat according to the standpoint and the taste of each reader. Some of those to whom Mr. Welsh has accorded considerable space seem to us unworthy of a place in such a book; while others of greater weight and influence, such as Charles Darwin, John Henry Newman, and E. A. Freeman, are not noticed in the body of the work, and receive but a bare mention in the appendix. Such omissions, however, are mostly confined to the concluding portion of the book, and are perhaps accounted for by the author's unfortunate death, which prevented his giving the final touches to his work. On the whole, this digest is excellent, and will be useful not only to students, for whom it is more particularly designed, but also as a reference-book for general readers.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE following are among the new publications announced by the J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia: "European Days

and Ways," by Alfred E. Lee; "The Distribution of Wealth," by Rufus Cope, being an examination of the extent and sources of our wealth and its distribution in the different branches of industry and trade, in which the author discusses in a popular manner the various important economical problems now so generally agitated, and by his keen logic adds materially to their solution; "Hermetic Philosophy," including lessons, general discourses, and explications of "Fragments" from the schools of Egypt, Chaldea, Greece, Italy, Scandinavia, etc., designed for students of the Hermetic, Pythagorean, and Platonic sciences and Western occultism, by an acolyte of the "H. B. of L.;" "Gleanings for the Curious from the Harvest-Fields of Literature," a melange of excerpts, collated by C. C. Bombaugh; "The Two Lost Centuries of Britain," by William H. Babcock, in which the author gives an account of the period intervening between the evacuation of the Romans and the commencement of authentic history of modern England, having earnestly and critically sought out the truth embodied in the various legends and traditions current concerning that time, and woven them, with the facts derived from various authoritative sources, into a most interesting and reliable narrative, which will prove a valuable addition to historical literature; "The German Soldier in the Wars of the United States" (2d edition), by J. G. Rosengarten, in which the distinguished part borne by German officers in the Revolution and the war of the Rebellion is thoroughly treated by the author, his work showing careful research; "Medical Diagnosis, with Special Reference to Practical Medicine: A Guide to the Knowledge and Discrimination of Disease," by J. M. Da Costa; "A System of Oral Surgery," by James E. Garretson; "Triumphs of Modern Engineering," by Henry Frith, author of "The Opal Mountain," etc., being a record of the latest and most interesting feats of our own and foreign engineers, showing the advances of modern engineering work—railways, bridges, tunnels, engines, docks, canals, etc.—from the popular point of view, compiled from authentic records and notes, as well

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Reviews. Title. Preface. Index.

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as from personal experiences; "The Chemistry of Iron and Steel Making, and of their Practical Uses," by U. Mattieu Williams, being written with the well-defined object of supplying to the producers and distributors of iron and steel, and to engineers, ship builders, architects, and others concerned in the use of these important materials, the special scientific knowledge which they all should possess, and in simple, clear, and readable language, the inevitable technicalities being explained as they occur; "Chambers's Encyclopædia," Vol. VI., an entirely new edition, revised and rewritten,—a dictionary of universal knowledge, edited and published under the auspices of W. & R. Chambers, Edinburgh, and J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, to be completed in ten volumes, issued at intervals of a few months; "Historic Note-Book," by the Rev. E. Cobham Brewer, LL.D., Trinity College, Cambridge, author of "The Reader's Hand-Book," "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable," etc.; and "Regional Anatomy in its Relation to Medicine and Surgery," by George McClellan, M.D., illustrated from photographs taken by the author, of his own dissections, expressly designed and prepared for this work, and colored by him after nature.

—Campanini, the famous tenor, has written a striking article on "How to Train the Voice" for *The Ladies' Home Journal*, and it will appear in the November number of that periodical.

—"The Economics of Prohibition," by James C. Fernald, is a work just issued from the press of Funk & Wagnalls. It is an attempt to show the costliness of dram-drinking, and the efficacy of prohibition as a preventive. The first part of this task is an easy one, and is successfully accomplished; but the argument for

prohibition is less successful, and contains nothing new. Mr. Fernald endeavors to show that high license has proved useless as a promoter of temperance; but the facts he adduces on this point are too meagre to be conclusive. He makes a good point against local option on the ground that it makes an act criminal in one part of the State that is not so in another; but on the whole he leaves the question pretty much as he found it. The style of the book is of that extravagant and excited character that we are accustomed to find in the works of prohibitionists. Why is it that temperance men are usually so intemperate in their language, and when will they learn that soberness and dignity are more persuasive than rant?

—The Colorado College Scientific Society, Colorado Springs, Col., has issued the first number of a yearly volume, to be known as "Colorado College Studies," which shows that there is some activity in this new educational centre. The table of contents is as follows: "Announcement;" "A Rigorous Elementary Proof of the Binomial Theorem," by F. H. Loud; "On Certain Cubic Curves," by F. H. Loud; "A Study of the Inductive Theories of Bacon, Whewell, and Mill," by Benjamin Ives Gilman; "A Mathematical Text-Book of the Last Century," by F. Cajori; "Horace, Od. III. 1, 34," by George L. Hendrickson; "Quinti Ciceronis Commentariorum Petitionis XI., § 43 (B. et K. vol. ix. p. 487)," by George L. Hendrickson.

—Herbert Spencer will contribute the opening article for the November number of *The Popular Science Monthly*. It is on "The Origin of Music," and extends the discussion in his essay on "The Origin and Function of Music," opposing Darwin's view that all music is developed from amatory sounds. A criticism by

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the late Mr. Gurney is also replied to in this article. The address of Professor T. C. Mendenhall, as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will be published in the same number. Its subject is "The Relations of Men of Science to the General Public," and it tells scientific men a number of ways in which they can make themselves more useful and better appreciated. There is also an account of the root-tip of a plant, the way it grows, the work it does, and its behavior when subjected to unnatural conditions, by Frederick L. Sargent. "School

Life in Relation to Growth and Health" is the title of a paper by Professor Axel Key of Stockholm. Professor Key maintains that the studies of children, as now ordered, do not allow enough time for rest and growth, and urges a reform in this respect. "The Logic of Free Trade and Protection" will be discussed by Arthur Kitson. Mr. Kitson takes Mr. Blaine as an authoritative exponent of protection, and subjects the doctrine as stated by him to a severe criticism, on the ground of not being a logical outcome of existing facts.

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Philosophical Society, Washington.

Oct. 11.—William Harkness, On the Determination of the Mass of the Moon from the Tides; Cleveland Abbe, A General Account of the Eclipse Expedition to Africa, especially as to its Results in the Study of Meteorology; H. S. Reid, Note on the Muir Glacier of Alaska.

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